

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
Office of the Governor

Mark R. Warner  
Governor

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Contact:	Ellen Qualls	Cheryl Roberts
Phone:	(804) 786-2211, x2379	(804) 786-6147
Cell Phone:	(804) 393-9429	
Internet:	<a href="http://www.governor.virginia.gov">www.governor.virginia.gov</a>	

GOVERNOR WARNER ANNOUNCES TOWN HALL MEETINGS TO  
DISCUSS ACCESS TO RURAL OBSTETRICAL SERVICES

RICHMOND-Governor Mark R. Warner announced today a series of town hall meetings regarding access to obstetrical care services.

"Prenatal, obstetrical, and labor and delivery services are critical components of our health care system," said Governor Warner. "We need to find ways to help ensure adequate access to these services for all Virginians."

Governor Warner signed Executive Directive 2 in March 2004, establishing a work group to develop recommendations for improving accessibility of obstetrical care in rural areas. The Governor appointed a work group to make recommendations on how to stabilize and improve access to care. In May, the General Assembly directed a similar study by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to make recommendations for the entire state on how to improve access to obstetrical care in under served areas. The work group is focusing on four major areas: standards of care, reimbursement, malpractice, and barriers to access to obstetrical care. A final report is due to the Governor this fall.

The Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources has been tasked with holding town hall meetings throughout the Commonwealth to obtain information from members of the medical community, health care professionals, and consumers on these issues. The town hall meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted on the following dates and locations:

The public hearings are scheduled for:

- \* July 13, 2004, Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center on the Virginia Highlands Community College Campus, Room 240, Abingdon.  
<http://www.swcenter.edu/directions.htm>
- \* July 15, 2004, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, Forum Room in Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center.  
<http://www.nvcc.vccs.edu/annandale/annandalenew/directions.htm>

- \* July 20, 2004. Harrisonburg-Rockingham Health Department (5-8 PM) \*  
\* Rural locations around the state will be linked via video conferencing technology.
- \* July 22, 2004, Tidewater Community College, Norfolk Campus, Room 2502  
<http://www.tcc.vccs.edu/welcome/locations/norfolk/auto.htm>
- \* July 26, 2004, Danville Community College, Oliver Hall in the Temple Building.  
<http://www.dcc.vccs.edu/AboutDCC/directions.htm>
- \* July 28, 2004, J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College North Run Campus Auditorium, Richmond.  
[http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/locations/parham\\_map.htm](http://www.jsr.vccs.edu/locations/parham_map.htm)

Those interested in addressing the working group regarding prenatal, obstetrical, labor and delivery services will also have the opportunity share their comments and concerns with the panel at its September 2 meeting in Richmond. For more information, contact the Department of Medical Assistance Services (804) 786-6147 or via email at: [execdirective2@dmass.virginia.gov](mailto:execdirective2@dmass.virginia.gov).